GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3115
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
GAUGE CONVERSION BETWEEN CHAMARAJA NAGAR-METTUPALYAM
Shivanna Shri M

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the 33 kms. stretch Chamaraja Nagar-Mettupalyam gauge conversion has come to a standstill because of the Elephant Corridor on its way;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to clear this hurdle so that the gauge conversion work would be completed at the earliest; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(DR. R. VELU)

(a): Yes, Sir. Survey work on Chamarajanagar-Mettupalayam new line had to be stopped as Tamil Nadu Forest Department had not permitted Railways to conduct survey in the Forest area stating that area involved is in important Elephant Corridor of Western Ghats.

(b) & (c): Efforts have been made by Railways with the Government of Tamil Nadu to obtain permission for conducting survey in the section between Bennari and Gattewadi (58 kms).On being denied permission by Tamil Nadu Forest Department,Railway has approached Central Empowered Committee (CEC), constituted under the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court for permission to conduct survey. CEC after conducting a number of hearings gave its decision on 14.5.2008 whereby it had inter-alia neither supported nor recommended the survey works to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Further survey will be possible only after necessary permission is granted.